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### Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McGee, John F.

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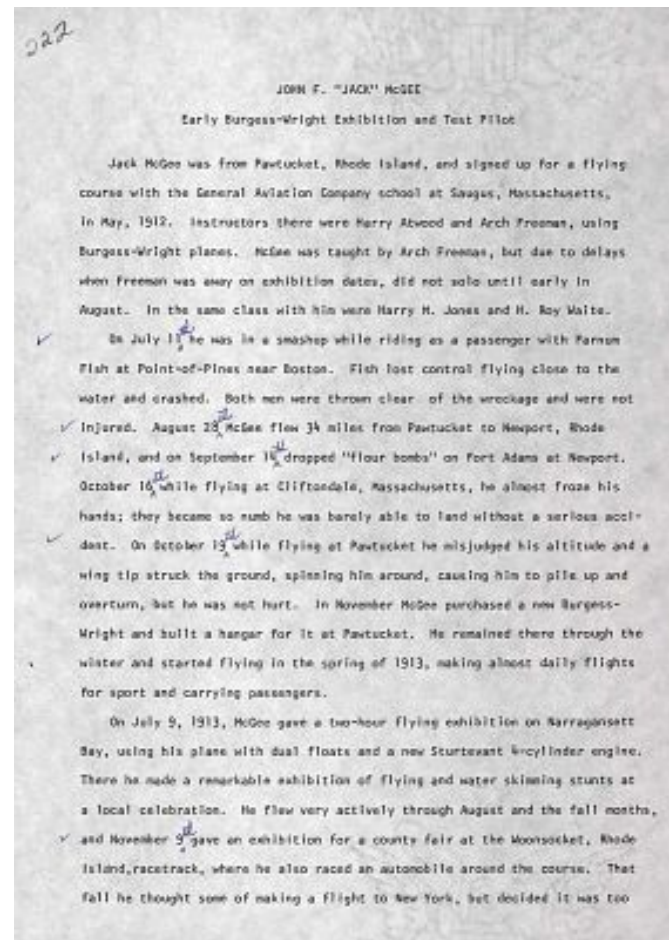
## JOHN F "JACK" McGEE

Jack McGee was from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and signed up for flying course with the General Aviation Company school at Saugus, Massachusetts, in May, 1912. Instructors there were Harry Atwood and Arch Freeman, using Burgess-Wright planes. McGee was taught by Arch Freeman, but due to delays when Freeman was away on exhibition date, did not solo until early August. IN the same class with him were Harry M. Jones and H. Roy Waite.

On July 11<sup>th</sup> he was in a smashup while riding a passenger with Farnum Fish at Paint-of-Pines near Boston. Fish lost control flying close to the water and crashed. Both men were thrown clear off the wreckage and were not injured. August 28<sup>th</sup> McGee flew 34 miles from Pawtucket to Newport, Rhode Island, and on September 14<sup>th</sup> dropped "flour bombs" on Fort Adams at Newport.

October 16<sup>th</sup> while flying at Cliffsale, Massachusetts, he almost froze his hands; they became so numb he was barely able to land without a serious accident. On October 19<sup>th</sup> while flying at Pawtucket he misjudged his altitude and a wing tip struck the ground, spinning him around, causing him to pile up and overturn, but he was not hurt. In November McGee purchased a new Burgess Wright and built a hanger for it at Pawtucket. He remained there through the winter and started flying in the spring of 1913, making almost daily flights for sport and carrying passengers.

On July 9, 1913, McGee gave a two-hour flying exhibition on Narragansett Bay, using his plane with dual floats and a new Sturtevant 4-cylinder engine. There he made a remarkable exhibition of flying and water skimming stunts at a local celebration. He flew very actively through August and the fall months, and November 9<sup>th</sup> gave an exhibition for a county fair at the Woonsocket, Rhode Island, racetrack, where he also raced an automobile around the course. That fall he thought some of making a flight to New York, but decided it was too



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